

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 PHNOM 02442 181304 Z

52

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 RSR-01 SSO-00 CCO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00

USIE-00 CIAE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-09 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10

PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-14 IO-12 DPW-01 OPR-02 M-03

A-01 OC-06 SY-07 CU-04 SCS-03 SCA-01 AID-20 T-03

OMB-01 /132 W

----- 085681

O P 181215 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 540

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY SAIGON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE PRIORITY

USDEL FRANCE PRIORITY

AMCONSUL HONG KONG PRIORITY

SECDEF

CJCS

CINCPAC

COMUSMACTHAI

COMUYOACV

COMUSSAG

S E C R E T PHNOM PENH 2442

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, CB

SUBJECT: SITUATION IN PHNOM PENH

REF: PHNOM PENH 2437

1. SUMMARY. PHNOM PENH WAS QUIET ON THE THIRD ANNIVERSARY OF SIHANOUK' S OUSTER EXCEPT FOR AN ATTACK BY FIRE UPON THE SUBURB OF TAKHMAU. IN THE BELIEF THAT THE ENEMY MAY EXPLOIT YESTERDAY' S EVENTS WITH OTHER SPECTACULAR ACTION AS IN PREVIOUS YEARS AT THIS TIME, THE CITY' S SECURITY FORCES ARE
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 PHNOM 02442 181304 Z

IN A STATE OF MAXIMUM ALERT. THE RADIO ANNOUNCED THE SUSPENSION OF ALL PRIVATE PUBLICATIONS AND ORDERED TEACHERS TO RETURN TO WORK. SEVERAL MEMBERS OF THE ROYAL FAMILY HAVE REPORTEDLY BEEN ARRESTED AND THOSE IN THE AIR FORCE REMOVED FROM POSITIONS OF RESPONSIBILITY. FANK IS PROCEEDING WITH OPERATIONS TO CLEAR THE BANKS OF THE MEKONG AND PERMIT ARRIVAL OF CONVOY. END SUMMARY.

2. THE AREA AROUND THE FACULTY OF PEDAGOGY HAS BEEN CLEARED OF PEOPLE AND SEALED OFF. ACCORDING TO COMMANDER OF THE NATIONAL GENDARMERIE BG CHEA KIM ENG, STUDENTS REQUESTED AND RECEIVED PERMISSION TO HOLD A PREVIOUSLY PLANNED MARCH 18 COMMEMORATION CEREMONY AT THE LYCEE DUAN PENH. (THIS IS THE GOVERNMENT SPONSORED CELEBRATION ORIGINALLY SCHEDULED TO BE HELD AT THE FACULTY OF LAW). CHEA KIM ENG TOLD US TODAY THAT HE HAS NO INDICATION AND DOES NOT EXPECT THAT TEACHERS OR STUDENTS WILL VIOLATE THE BAN ON MEETINGS AND DEMONSTRATIONS BUT THAT THE NATIONAL GENDARMERIE WILL STRICTLY ENFORCE THE REGULATIONS SHOULD THEY ATTEMPT TO DO SO.

3. PHNOM PENH RADIO ANNOUNCED THAT ALL PRIVATELY OWNED NEWSPAPERS AND MAGAZINES HAVE BEEN SUSPENDED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE BY DECREE OF MINISTER OF DEFENSE THAPPANA NGINN. STATE OWNED NEWSPAPERS AND MAGAZINES WILL CONTINUE TO PUBLISH. THE RADIO ALSO BROADCAST A DECREE BY MINISTER OF EDUCATION KEO MONGKRY CALLING UPON ALL TEACHERS AND EDUCATION MINISTRY PERSONNEL TO RETURN TO WORK.

4. THE SON OF PRINCE SISOWATH MONIRETH INFORMED THE EMBASSY OFFOCER THAT HIS FATHER, THE QUEEN MOTHER, AND A NUMBER OF OTHER MEMBERS OF THE ROYAL FAMILY WERE ARRESTED LAST NIGHT. EMBASSY CONTACTS AMONG STUDENTS AND TEACHERS REPORT THAT STUDENT LEADERS KY SOTHERY AND TEACHERS STRIKE LEADER SENG BUN THAN HAVE DISAPPEARED.

5. CASUALTY FIGURES FROM MARCH 17 BOMBING OF HOUSING AREA WITHIN CHAMCAR MON COMPOUND HAVE NOW BEEN UPDATED TO 33 KILLED (OF WHICH FOUR MILITARY AND THE REMAINDER DEPENDENTS) AND 28 WOUNDED. ONE PERSON WAS KILLED AND TWO WOUNDED BY SECOND BOMB WHICH HIT SOUTHEAST OF THE PRESIDENTIAL COMPOUND. OF ADDITIONAL TWO BOMBS WHICH PILOT LATER JETTISONED, ONE IMPACTED ON CHRUI CHANGWAR PENINSULA KILLING ONE AND WOUNDING 20 AND ONE IS BELIEVED TO HAVE FALLEN IN INUNDATED AREA NORTHWEST OF CITY CAUSING NO
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 PHNOM 02442 181304 Z

CASUALTIES.

6. NO FIRM INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE CONCERNING HEADING TAKEN OR

EVEN MAXIMUM RANGE OF THE ATTACKING AIRCRAFT. IT IS ASSUMED, HOWEVER, TO HAVE HAD FULL FUEL LOAD AND THUS RANGE OF UP TO 400 NM.

7. KAF CHIEF OF STAFF BG SO SATTO TOLD ACTING DEFATT THAT PILOT OF ATTACKING AIRCRAFT IS INDEED THE HUSBAND OF SIHANOUK' S DAUGHTER BOTUM BOPHA. ACCORDING TO SO SATTO, FANK HAS REMOVED MEMBERS GF THE ROYAL FAMILY (INCLUDING TWO CAPABLE AND VALUABLE OFFICERS) FROM POSITIONS OF IMPORTANCE. DETAILS OF THIS CONVERSATION ARE BEING REPORTED THROUGH SSO CHANNELS.

8. TAKHMAU SUBURB SOUTH OF PHNOM PENH RECEIVED SEVERAL ROUNDS OF MORTAR AND RECOILESS RIFLE FIRE AROUND 0030 THIS MORNING, WHICH IS BELIEVED TO HAVE CAUSED ONLY MINOR DAMAGE. ENEMY TO OUR KNOWLEDGE HAS INITIATED NO THER SIGNIFICANT ACTION IN THE PHNOM PENH AREA.

9. FANK NAVAL FORCES SUPPORTED BY US AIR HAVE MOUNTED GUNFIRE OPERATION AGAINST ENEMY TROOPS ONHOANKS OF MEKONG SOUTH OF NEAK LOEUNG. ELEMENTS OF THREE FANK BRIGADES ARE CLEARING THE WEST AND EAST BANKS OF THE MEKONG SOUTH OF NEAK LOEUNG AND THE EAST BANK NORTH OF THAT TOWN. PROGRESS OF THESE OPERATIONS IS SLOW

AND THE EXACT STATUS IS NOT YET KNOWN. A DECISION ON THE NEXT MEKONG CONVOY WILL BE MADE TOMORROW AFTER CHECKING ON THE LATEST MILITARY SITUATION AND SOUNDING OUT SHIP' S CAPTAINS. SWANK

SECRET

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** SECRET

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 18 MAR 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: boyleja
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973PHNOM02442
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: RR
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: PHNOM PENH
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730330/aaaahwyg.tel
Line Count: 152
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 73 PHNOM PENH 2437
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: boyleja
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23 AUG 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <23-Aug-2001 by boyleja>; APPROVED <24-Aug-2001 by boyleja>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> srp 971210
Subject: SITUATION IN PHNOM PENH
TAGS: PINS, CB
To: EA
SECSTATE WASHDC INFO BANGKOK
CINCPAC
DOD
MULTIPLE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

